MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 NOVEMBER 1982

PLO

At a meeting in Tunisia, Fatah's Revolutionary Council called for the reinforcement of Palestinian forces in Lebanon and approved the idea of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation on the basis of two independent Jordanian and Palestinian states, AFP reported citing an informed Palestinian source. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Jordanian King Husayn in Amman on 16 November, the source disclosed. Meanwhile, PLO sources in Damascus cited by ANSA announced that the forthcoming PLO Central Council meeting in the Syrian capital will discuss PLO relations with Syria as well as the date and venue of the planned Palestinian people's congress. Admitting that PLO-Syrian relations are "unsatisfactory," a PLO official said that if a "frank discussion" ends misunderstandings the congress will be held in Damascus. Otherwise, it will be convened in Algiers or Tunis, he added.

In another development, a Palestinian delegation met in Cairo with Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz for talks on Egyptian-Palestinian relations and on the steps needed to start a U.S.-PLO dialogue, MENA reported.

Lebanon

The government won the vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies by a 58 to 1 vote, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The chamber also granted the government powers to legislate by decree for a 6-month period in a wide range of activities. However, the election law and several other matters were deleted from the government's original draft presented to the chamber by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan on 2 November.

President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of Druze and Christian leaders in B'abda in a further attempt to defuse the sectarian conflict in the Ash-Shuf mountain region, according to Beirut radio. Druze and Phalangist militias subsequently renewed the clashes despite the IDF reinforcement in the area, Jerusalem television reported.

Early on 10 November, Voice of Lebanon radio described the atmosphere in the Al-Biqa' Valley as "tense" following 2 nights of Israeli-Syrian artillery and missile duels.

Gulf

The third GCC summit opened in Bahrain on 9 November, SPA reported. During the first session the leaders of the GCC member states approved the summit's agenda, which includes economic, political, military and security topics, WAKH noted. GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah told KUNA that the summit will concentrate on defense issues within the framework of a nonaligned policy and will review political and security coordination, among other issues.

Afghanistan

Over 1,000 Soviet soldiers and Afghan civilians suffocated in the Salang Pass tunnel last week after a gasoline tanker truck collided with the lead vehicle in a Soviet military convoy, AFP reported. The Soviets reportedly blocked the tunnel because they believed that their convoy was being attacked; exhaust fumes killed virtually everyone in the tunnel, AFP added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces have liberated 550 square km of Iranian territory and have gained control of 300 square km of Iraqi territory which include 50 oil wells in four areas east of the Tigris River, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported. The communique also reported the "liberation" both of Iraq's Zubaydah region, which contains some of the oil wells, and of three Iraqi posts. A military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that Iran's 9 November offensive in the Maysan Governorate border area was defeated and almost 1,700 Iranian troops were killed. Although a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reiterated that Iranian forces have penetrated 10 km into Iraqi territory, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told a Cabinet meeting in Baghdad that the Iranian incursion has been only 1-5 km, Baghdad radio reported. President Husayn returned to Baghdad early on 9 November following a 2-day visit to the battlefront in the Maysan Governorate, INA noted.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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EYEWITNESS PROVIDES ACCOUNT OF TUNNEL MISHAP

BK101020 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 10 Nov 82

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 10 (AFP) -- A young Afghan farmer today provided the first eye witness account of an accident in the Salang Pass tunnel ten days ago in which several hundred Soviet soldiers and Afghan civilians reportedly suffocated after Soviet forces blocked both ends of the 2.6 km (1.6 mile) tunnel.

The farmer, in an interview with two information agencies close to the Afghan resistance movement, said he was aboard a bus following a Soviet convoy some 20 metres (yards) from the northern entrance to the tunnel.

A Western diplomatic source reported in Islamabad yesterday that the accident occurred when a tanker truck full of petrol (gasoline) collided head-on with the lead vehicle in a Soviet military convoy in the tunnel, the main pass through the Hindu Kush mountains linking the Afghan capital Kabul with the north of the country and the Soviet Union.

The witness, who asked not to be named, said his bus was stopped when thick black smoke came billowing out of the tunnel.

Citing estimates gleaned from local Afghan officials, he said 500 Soviet soldiers perished in the tunnel along with some 160 Afghan civilians, passengers on three buses.

First reports from Western diplomats based in Kabul had put the Soviet death toll at 700 and estimated that between 400 and 2,000 Afghans had died.

The young farmer, who said the accident took place October 30 at 11:00 a.m., confirmed that Soviet troops posted outside the tunnel quickly sealed off both entrances, thinking that the convoy had been ambushed by resistance forces.

He added that most Afghans living in the Salang region believed that the mujahidin resistance forces had planted a mine in the tunnel, a conviction he said had been expressed privately by certain regional officials.

One local resistance leader, Commander Haji Abdol Rashid, was quoted in a message here today as saying that an unidentified mujahidin faction was very likely responsible for the accident.

However, no resistance group has claimed any responsibility, and the witness himself said he doubted reports that the rebels had been involved in any way.

Ever since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the road leading from Kabul through the tunnel to the north has been the scene of frequent attacks on Soviet convoys by resistance fighters.

The witness said he and his fellow passengers, seven of whom were overcome by the fumes escaping the tunnel, were evacuated to the nearby village of Do Shakh where he said six trucks loaded with the bodies of Soviet soldiers later arrived.

He said the accident involved two convoys, one coming from the north carrying light weapons and food, and another from Kabul ferrying troops to Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

Inside the tunnel, which is badly ventilated, a Soviet tank truck collided with an Afghan truck and fire broke out.

Gas cannisters aboard another military vehicle exploded, he said, citing conversations with many Afghans who had also been taken to Do Shakh.

In the tension and confusion outside the tunnel, he said, a Soviet patrol opened fire on an Afghan truck that did not stop quickly enough before a hastily established control post.

Afghan resistance leaders had yesterday firmly denied rumour circulating in Kabul that shots were heard in the tunnel.

DEFECTOR SAYS GEN ABDOL WODUD KILLED BY SOVIETS

BK090933 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 8 (AFP) -- General Abdol Wodud, the commander of the Kabul Military Region found dead in his office early last month, was killed by Soviet authorities who suspected him of collaborating with the country's Islamic resistance, according to a former Afghan official who has defected to Pakistan.

General Wodud's death puzzled Western observers here as Kabul authorities had attributed it to suicide and the official Afghan radio made no mention of his rank or assignment. General Wodud was considered the number three man in the Afghan military hierarchy.

The former secretary to Afghan Prime Minister Soltan Ali Keshtmand, who asked not to be named, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Soviet military leaders held General Wodud responsible for the failure of two operations in eastern Afghanistan in September.

The informant, who fled to Pakistan with his family after being ordered to rejoin the Afghan Army, disclosed that he had been providing information to resistance leaders ever since the Soviet invasion in December, 1979.

At least three-quarters of the 800 persons responsible to the prime minister, he said, aided the resistance movement in one form or another, either in providing details of military movements or by participating in night-time operations against government targets in Kabul.

It was General Wodud, the former secretary said, who sent 66 elite government troops to accept the surrender of a resistance leader and his men in Jalalabad. The surrender, however, was a ruse and the Afghan soldiers were killed.

In another incident, a convoy of troops reportedly dispatched by the general north of the Kunar Valley was decimated in an ambush by some 500 resistance fighters.

General Wodud, a member of the minority Khalq faction of the Afghan Communist Party, had been reprimanded by Soviet military authorities and Afghan Defense Minister General Abdol Qader and was found dead in his office the next day of a bullet wound in the head.

The former official did not say if the general had willingly cooperated with resistance forces in the two operations although he was believed to have had indirect contact with them on several occasions.

He also confirmed that the Soviet Embassy in Kabul had twice been attacked by rockets fired from resistance forces during October.

BRIEFS

RATEBZAD RETURNS FROM LISBON -- Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA peace, solidarity and friendship organizations, who headed an Afghan delegation to Lisbon to attend the session of the World Peace Council Presidium and the gathering of the international preparation committee for the convention of world peace assembly against the dangers of nuclear war, today returned home. At Kabul International Airport she and the delegation were welcomed by Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Niaz Mohammad Momand, secretary of the party Central Committee; the minister of public health; deputies of the DRA peace, solidarity and friendship organizations. [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Nov 82 LD]

RAJASTHAN OPPOSES AKALIS' LAND TRANSFER DEMAND

BK100905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Nov 82

[Text] Rajasthan Chief Minister Shiv Charan Mathur has met the prime minister and conveyed to her his state's views against the Akalis demand for the transfer of Raisinghnagar and Anupgarh areas to the state of Punjab. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the people in his state are agitated and the state will not tolerate such demands. Mathur also described as unjustified the demand for the reopening of the 1981 agreement between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan for sharing surplus Ravi-Beas waters. This, he said, will only shake the confidence in the sanctity of such agreements. Mathur said the entire hopes of Rajasthan are vested in the development of areas along the Rajasthan canal. Any reduction in the share of the waters will result in unprecedented political turmoil in the peaceful state, he added.

SIXTH ROUND OF ASSAM TALKS DISCUSSES CITIZENSHIP

BK061622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] At the Assam talks in New Delhi, it has been agreed that those who entered the state between 1961 and 1971 and have already obtained citizenship will be entitled to stay on and vote in the election.

Defense Minister Venkataraman told newsmen at the end of nearly 3-hours of talks that the issue regarding citizenship of 1961-71 entrants was further narrowed down.

Today's was the sixth round of combined talks between the government, the opposition and the Assam agitation leaders.

Venkataraman said the question of constituting tribunals to inqure and determine citizenship, their composition and formation will be taken up at informal discussions between the government and the student leaders tomorrow. Janata Party leader Ravindra Verma will also be taking part in these informal discussions.

On the question of safeguards, Venkataraman said the issue was further discussed today. No specific proposals were put forward at today's meeting. This matter will also be discussed further informally.

In his opening remarks also, Home Minister P.C. Sethi referred to the question of tribunals and said it may be worthwhile to explore this idea as it offers a practical way to deal with the situation. The government, he said, is anxious that popular rule is restored in the state as that would be in the interest of all. He urged the agitation leaders not to loose sight of national perspective, adding that the effort should be to evolve a practical solution to the foreign nationals issue.

The ministers for finance, law, energy and parliamentary affairs also took part in the meeting. The opposition included the Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India-Marxist, the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress-S and Janata. There were four representatives of the All Assam Students Union and two of the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.

Talks End

BK091635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] The present round of informal talks between the government and the Assam agitation leaders to resolve the foreign nationals issue ended in New Delhi today.

It was agreed that the union home minister and the defense minister will visit Assam on the 22d and the 23d of next month. They will hold talks with the agitation leaders and also visit the border areas along Bangladesh to assess the situation themselves. The two ministers, the agitation leaders and Janata [Party] leader Ravindra Verma took part in the talks today.

STRIKES AGAINST DELHI ESSENTIAL SERVICES BANNED

BK091634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] The delhi administration has prohibited strikes in essential services in the union territory. The order issued today comes into effect immediately and will remain in force till the 8th of next month. The ban applies to areas like public conservancy, water supply, hospitals, dispensaries and generation and distribution of power.

JOINT COOPERATION BODY TO BE SET UP WITH IRAN

BK061626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] India and Iran are to set up a joint commission to diversify their cooperation in economic, scientific and technological fields. The terms of reference of the commission will be finalized soon.

The Iranian Government's approval of the Indian proposal for the joint commission was conveyed by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri, who is on an 8-day visit to India. Iran has also south India's help in training doctors and engineers and setting up health institutes on a turn-key basis.

SOVIET ENVOY SPEAKS ON FURTHERING FRIENDSHIP

BK070849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to India Y.M. Vorontsov has said that the friendship between India and the Soviet Union would further strengthen bilateral relations and help toward achieving world peace. Addressing the conference of Indo-Soviet Society in Gaya, Vorontsov reiterated his country's stand not to use nuclear weapons against any country in the world.

FOUR NEW ATOMIC POWER STATIONS TO BE SET UP

BK071021 Hong Kong AFP in English 1645 GMT 6 Nov 82

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 6 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today disclosed that her government's plan to establish four atomic power stations to increase the installed capacity of nuclear power from the present 860 mw to 10,000 mw by 2000 A.D.

Mrs. Gandhi, who is also holding the charge of atomic programme, told a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee that initially these stations would be of 235 mw units which could be later converted to 500 mw units.

Designs of these new projects were now under preparation, official sources quoted her as saying.

BRIEFS

OIL SUPPLY FROM USSR -- India is to get 4.75 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products from the Soviet Union during 1983. A protocol to this effect was signed in New Delhi today by chairman of the Indian oil corporation (A.J.A. Toro) and vice president of the Sovuznefteeksport of the Soviet Union Cye.N. Kharlamov). [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Nov 82 BK]

ZIA COMMENTS ON ELECTION, KASHMIR, MRS BHUTTO

BK051445 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 5 (AFP) -- Visiting Pakistani President Ziaul Haq tonight ruled out the possibility of holding a general election in his country saying the situation in Pakistan was not suitable.

Addressing a press conference President Zia said he had been postponing the election because the "politicians have asked." He refused to give a date when an election could take place.

On the issue of Kashmir, he said Pakistan wanted to solve the problem peacefully in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

Questioned on the health of the widow of former Premier Ali Bhutto, President Zia said she was being examined by a government medical board and added: "Should she deserve medical treatment abroad, I shall be the first person to let her go."

President Zia called for closer cooperation between Pakistan and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines. ASEAN and Pakistan could cooperate well in many areas, he said.

He dismissed a suggestion that Pakistan was acquiring nuclear power for military purposes saying: "We have the nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as we have the right to possess a power to develop our country."

President Zia visited China last month but he reaffirmed he carried no message from the Chinese leadership for Indonesian President Suharto although the topic of China had come up in discussions with President Suharto.

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDONESIA

For coverage of President Ziaul Haq's official visit to Indonesia on 2-6 November, see the Indonesia section of the 3, 4, and 9 November Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

MRD OFFICIAL CRITICIZES GHAFFAR KHAN ARREST

GF091846 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Nov 82 p 8

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Begum Nasim Wali Khan and Mr Abdul Khaliq Khan had a meeting with Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the prominent Khudai Khidmatgar leader, at the rest house near Noushera where he was detained.

According to sources close to defunct NDP [National Democratic Party], the old leader was surprised over his detention for preaching peace.

Meanwhile, Mr Mairaj Mohammad Khan, joint secretary of the MRD [Movement for Restoration of Democracy] and chief of the defunct Qoumi Mahazi-i-Azadi, criticised the arrest of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. He deplored that his arrest took place prior to President Ziaul Haq's visit to the United States. He apprehended that Mr Ghaffar Khan's arrest might further deteriorate Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan which would have very serious implications on country's internal and external situation.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN STATE OF EMERGENCY

BK101158 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 10 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov. 10 (AFP) -- The government today decided to maintain the state of emergency while it continued an inquiry into an alleged opposition coup last month, Information Minister Anandatissa de Alwis announced.

Mr. del Alwis made the announcement after a Cabinet meeting called to consider civil rights protests against the holding of a referendum while the emergency continued. The proposed referendum is about extending parliament's life another six years.

SLFP HEAD DENIES PLANS FOR POSTELECTION VIOLENCE

BK100646 Colombo SUN in English 6 Nov 82 pp 1, 13

[Text] SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike breaking six weeks of silence, yesterday denied that the SLFP intended either to indulge in post election violence or to disrupt the administration of the country by making public appointments of an irresponsible nature.

In a statement, Mrs. Bandaranaike said the SLFP itself had repeatedly appealed for peace and calm during the election campaign.

She said that if parliament was to be dissolved and a general election held, peace and calm throughout the country was vital and the administration had to function with the least interference.

She charged that innocent men were being arrested and their homes searched while newspaper offices and presses were being sealed under cover of emergency.

Mrs. Bandaranaike invited leaders of all political parties in Sri Lanka to form a common front to oppose what she called "a move to abolish parliamentary elections in this country."

She alleged that the move to hold a referendum was akin to taking away civic rights of all the people in the country.

She said "the referendum is not a matter of partisan politics. The question at issue is not whether it is better for this country to have a UNP [United National Party] or SLFP government. Nor are the relative merits of the UNP and SLFP policies at issue. Those are not the questions. The single question to be answered is whether the people of Sri Lanka should now voluntarily surrender their right to vote for the purpose of electing representatives of their choice to parliament. Will a right which has been thus surrendered be ever restored?"

"During the past week, UNP leaders have begun screaming of plots, and civil wars. If the SLFP candidate had won the presidential election, he would have been invested with state power instantly. That is the law of the land.

"It is he who would have had to guard and protect himself against plots and coups. It is the victory of the common people which would have had to be secured against the machinations of those who could simply not afford to lose their positions of power and patronage and thus stand exposed to public scrutiny," she said.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,115

LD091744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,115 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. We hereby inform our dear compatriots about the results of the endeavors and self-sacrifices of the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours.

On the Paveh and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts up to Sumar, the exchange of artillery fire and other heavy weapons continued yesterday between our powerful and victorious forces and the defeated mercenaries of Saddam. In each of those fronts, our forces silenced the artillery and heavy weapons fire of the Saddamists, inflicting losses and casualties.

The heroic fighters of the irregular tribal units protected their defensive positions and inflicted effective blows upon the enemy, maintaining their superiority over the blasphemous forces of Saddam.

During the past 24 hours, intense fighting continued on the Moharram operational fronts. The victorious fighters of Islam, while further strengthening their defensive positions, brought the enemy positions and units under the continuous, heavy fire of their artillery and other heavy weapons. They destroyed several tanks and killed or wounded a number of the enemy. They prevented enemy movements and activities in this region. During the entire period, our victorious forces enjoyed firepower superiority.

On other southern fronts, the forces of Islam defended their positions and inflicted losses and casualties upon the Zionist, aggressive forces of Iraq.

On the Abadan fronts, the heroic forces of the gendarmerie opened fire on the enemy positions and units on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces and destroyed three foxholes, slit trenches and one observation post.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

JOINT COMMUNIQUE NO 11 REPORTS LATEST GAINS

LD091814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Communique No 11 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "There is neither might nor strength except through God, the almighty and the greatest." [Koranic verse] We hear and respond to your summons, O Aba 'Abdullah al-Husayn:

The intrepid combatants and devout warriors of the army of Islam have continued their relentless battle against the criminal enemy. Relying on the eternal strength of Almighty God, they are guarding and watching over the sacrosanct Islamic revolution to force the Zionist ruling regime in Iraq and its filthy collaborators and masters to surrender to the will of God, now manifested in the mighty sinews of the blasphemy-cleansing combatants of the Islamic army, and so that with their selflessness and entire being, they can defend the honor and Islamic dignity of the Islamic and martyr-nurturing nation.

During the third phase of the Moharram operations, the combatants of Islam have penetrated up to 10 km inside Iraqi territory and have consolidated their positions in that region. By opening fire on enemy positions east of the Tigris, they are inflicting heavy losses on the defeated enemy in order to push back enemy artillery fire from the border regions of the Islamic homeland and to retrieve the just rights of the Islamic nation of Iran and to force the ruling regime in Iraq to accept the equitable conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the mopping up of 550 sq km of the territory of the Islamic revolution and another 300 sq km of Iraqi soil and in the course of killing and capturing thousands of enemy servicemen and destroying and capturing hundreds of tanks, APC's and vehicles.

With the entry of the brave combatants and the blasphemy-cleansing warriors of the Islamic army, a large part of the important, strategic areas of Iraqi territory came under the control of Islam's combatants and large areas east of the Tigris are now within reach of the artillery fire of our forces which may now be given in detail for the information of the revolutionary and martyr-nurturing Islamic nation:

1. The liberation of the (Sharqani), Abu Ghorab and Zubaydah posts in Iraq;
2. The liberation and full control of the Zubaydah region in Iraq;
3. The gaining of access to Iraq's oilfields in the At-Tib, Zubaydah, (Sharqani) and (Bazargan) regions with oil installations and several pumping stations and refineries;
4. The gaining of access to some 50 Iraqi oil wells;
5. The achievement of full deployment around the Iraqi town of At-Tib;
6. Dominating and bringing under fire the At-Tib-(Sharqani)-(Sabtah) axis and the At-Tib-'Ali al-Gharbi axis;
7. The extremely important Baghdad-Al-Basra supply highway, which is one of the primary economic and supply axes of the enemy, between 'Ali al-Gharbi and the vicinity of Al-'Amarah is already covered by the fire of Islam's combatants and all enemy traffic is observed by the Islamic combatants.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

STATISTICS ON IRAQI LOSSES IN MOHARRAM OPERATION

LD091840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] One reliable source in Karbala' headquarters today announced the following statistics for the damage inflicted on the Zionist armed forces of Iraq during the three phases of the Moharram operations:

The 24th Mechanized Brigade, the 60th Armored Brigade and the 9th Battalion of the 42d Armored Brigade, which had nine battalions and had entered the battle during the first and second phases of the Moharram operations to assist the defeated forces of Saddam, were destroyed completely.

The remnants of the 606th, the 505th and the 424th Infantry Brigades were destroyed completely.

The 5th At-Tahrir Battalion was destroyed completely and the following brigades sustained losses and casualties:

1. The 17th Armored Brigade has lost 80 percent of its fighting effectiveness; its 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions have been destroyed completely.
2. The 74th Infantry Brigade has lost 50 percent of its effectiveness.
3. The 108th Border Guard Brigade has lost 30 percent of its effecitveness.
4. The Saddam Tank Brigade has been 80 percent destroyed.
5. The Al-Ba'th Battalion has been 20 percent destroyed.

In these victorious operations, 3,400 of the defeated forces of Saddam have been captured by the fighters of Islam and 6,100 enemy troops have been killed or wounded.

During these (?heroic) operations, the enemy has sustained great damage; 330 vehicles and 307 tanks and personnel carriers have been destroyed.

According to this report, during these great operations, a large quantity of war booty was captured by our fighters, including: 149 tanks and personnel carriers, 275 vehicles, 14 antiaircraft guns, 26 106-mm guns, a considerable number of mortars and medium weapons, road-building equipment and a very large quantity of ammunition and light weapons, which is still being counted.

VELAYATI HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 9 NOVEMBER

GF091708 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 9 IRNA -- The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue fighting the aggressor Iraqi regime until all her terms for ending the war are met, proclaimed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here this morning.

Velayati who was responding to questions put forth by foreign and domestic reporters in a press conference at the Foreign Ministry building, said one of Iran's terms for ending the war was the payment by Iraq of war reparations for the damages it has inflicted on our country, the exact amount of which, has not been evaluated yet.

Speaking on Iran-Canada relations, the foreign minister said only after the formal apologies by the Canadian Government for its measure at the time when the U.S. den of espionage was held by the students, will the Canadian Embassy be allowed to open here. He said that was the least Iran could ask the Canadians to fulfill, because their act (referring to the Canadian Embassy's hiding six American spies and later helping them flee Iran), was the precise violation of the Islamic Republic's sovereignty.

Asked by Western reporters why Iran called U.S.-supported countries in the Persian Gulf region "mercenary", the foreign minister said Iran never called all the regional countries mercenaries, but it only called those countries which acted to obtain U.S. goals in the region, instead of working to satisfy their nations' wishes.

The foreign minister said one mercenary regime was that of Jordan's King Husayn who was reported by even the U.S. President that he was on the CIA payroll.

Speaking on the non-aligned countries' recent decision on changing the Baghdad summit venue to New Delhi, Velayati said it was one turning point in the Non-aligned Movement, and that the Iraqi regime did not deserve to be a member of the movement for it had violated all principles of the movement, and had become dependent on the superpowers.

How could someone who did not wince at killing his own ministers, added Velayati, be the head of a Non-aligned Movement session?

He said Iran worked to disclose the nature of Saddam's regime and will work in the future in realising the goals of the movement.

When asked on relations with France, the foreign minister said it all stemmed from the hostile stands of the French Government vis-a-vis the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Under the name of democracy, Velayati added, the French Government has given asylum to the opposers of the Islamic Republic, the majority of whom are criminals, he noted.

He said those criminals were all the likes of Bani-Sadr and Rajavi (the U.S.-backed MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] leader) who have admitted to their roles in catastrophes such as the bombing of the IRP [Islamic Republican Party] -- headquarters on June 28th of last year, which led to the martyrdom of a group of the best children of this land, he said.

He stressed that the French Government would never have granted asylum to a terrorist group whose acts were carried out in Europe, as it extradited the members of the German Baader-Meinhoff gang to German officials after it arrested them, he went on.

Keeping all this in mind, Velayati emphasised that the present state of relations were solely because of the French Goverment's actions, which indicate her political goals behind giving refuge to the enemies of the Islamic Republic.

He then declared that Iran had no need of having relations with France and that the bilateral relations will become normalised only when the Franch Government ends its hostility towards Iran.

When asked on relations with the Soviet Union, Velayati said, Iran's relations with other countries were directly dependent on those countries' stances towards Iran, as the U.S. acts in the last quarter century indicate the U.S.'s evident enmity towards the Islamic revolution, he went on.

He said the U.S. was directly involved in the 1953 coup in Iran and imposed on the Iranian deprived nation a criminal regime and that now the U.S. has a direct hand in all the plots which are underway in the region against us at present.

He said the cutting off of the U.S. hands and its instruments in the region, did not mean that Iran aimed at replacing it with another power.

He then mentioned that Iran was the first country which condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, and that Iran denounced all Eastern and Western domination.

Speaking on the upcoming trip of the Yugslav foreign minister to Iran, Velayati said it was for the expansion and the strengthening of bilateral relations since Yugoslavia was one of the founders of the Non-aligned Movement.

The final question asked from the foreign minister was why Iran did not leave the U.N. when it called it "an instrument in the hands of the superpowers", and in response he said the way to counter such a phenomenon, was not leaving the United Nations, rather, he added, was staying in it and correcting it, f[illegible]eaving and quitting was the last alternative.

He said Iran believed the U.N. was a circle in which one had to be present and had to work to improve it.

All world countries know that an unjust thing by the name of "veto" exists in the U.N. which give rise to all oppressions therein, Velayati added.

He said even the U.N. secretary-general complained of the U.N.'s incompetence.

Dr Velayati concluded the press conference by saying that how could the U.N. not be under the superpowers' influence when the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, remained silent in the face of the recent Zionist regime's aggressions against southern Lebanon?

COMMENTARY ADDRESSES GCC SUMMIT IN MANAMA

GF092002 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The heads of the Gulf Cooperation Council meet in Manama today to adopt political stands and to implement economic and security plans. The council also is supposed to discuss the aggressive Saddamist war against the Islamic Republic and adopt new stands on [words indistinct].

Press reports say council members fear the expansion of the war to other areas of the Gulf. These circles separate the Gulf parties into various trends. The first trend is concerned only with preventing the fire from expanding to its oil wells and the battle fire from engulfing other Gulf regions. The other trend is concerned only with supporting the existing regime in Baghdad with various means and methods, starting with financial aid and ending with media support. The third trend sees better that this war should end and that stability should return to the region [words indistinct].

After reviewing these important trends in the stands of the Gulf states, an important question arises: What trend will prevail during the meeting of the conference that opened today in Manama? [passage indistinct]

The Islamic Republic announced from the very beginning that it does not want to undermine the dignity of any Gulf state and that the war which took place and is still continuing was not initiated by the Islamic Republic. If the Baghdad regime did not carry out its oppressive aggression, the war could not have taken place or lasted so long.

We said and we still say that we are peaceful to those who are peaceful to us and we are at war with those who declare war against us. We are peaceful to all small and big countries if they abide by the laws of peace and do not aid the oppressive aggressors -- peaceful to whoever does not extend his hand to the enemy or supply it with money, arms or weapons.

We are at war with whoever is tempted to undermine our dignity and rights -- at war with the aggressors who raise the sword of their aggression against us and against our great human principles. This has been our stand since the very beginning. The region's states know this. The war is not in its first day. After 2 years and 2 months of war, the Islamic Republic has proved that it resists and insists on resisting whoever aggresses against the land, the dignity and the shrines. It has proved to all Gulf states that it does not attack anyone and that it does not want [words indistinct].

Yet, if some people still believe they can confront the Islamic Republic of Iran with their generous aid to the ruling regime in Baghdad, they must change their belief [words indistinct] It is not at all in their interests to alienate the Islamic Republic which puts itself at the disposal of the Muslim and the oppressed.

They must refrain and convince others that the real threat to the region is Saddam and his aggressive regime.

As for the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is there where mercy, grace and true Islamic brotherhood exist. It is Saddam alone who wants to extend the war area through his repetitive requests to the region's states to offer aid and join in the conflict. Saddam alone wants evil for the region. Colonialism wanted him to be a gendarme of the resources of the states that overlook the Gulf's shores.

Saddam attacked the Islamic Republic and attacked the oil installations in Kuwait to push Kuwait -- this small country -- into war with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Saddam wants the war to expand and include the entire region and the entire world. He wants our Islamic world to live in a sea of blood. This is Saddam.

As for the Islamic Republic, it has proved to the entire world that it does not want more than its legitimate rights and that it is friendly to all peoples, a protector of the Islamic peoples and a defender of the oppressed peoples. It does not want war except to deter the aggressors. It does not want to harm anyone no matter what his nationality or religion. This is our word to those who are meeting in Manama so that some of them be guided by it.

MAJLIS CONSIDERS MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

GF090900 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0430 GMT on 9 November begins live coverage of the open session of the Majlis.

The agenda is read following the recitation of a Koranic verse. Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani then introduces the new ministers, Messrs Rafiqdust, Khatami and Izeh'i, giving lengthy biographical sketches of each. He said he had been clearly associated with them for the past 20 years and hopes that they will prove their merit.

At 0630 GMT, an unidentified deputy is heard carrying on a tirade against the proposed minister for Islamic guidance, Khatami, mentioning his association with Bani-Sadr.

Reception remains poor as the deputies vote for the motion and Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani takes the rostrum at 0730 GMT. He presents a synopsis of the speeches made for and against the ministers-designate and says: "Although Mr Khatami has not received the desired number of votes, he will continue to be our dear friend and associate."

Deputy Navab asks permission to speak and says there are many others qualified to hold ministerial posts but have not been given the chance simply because the people do not know about them.

Deputy Majid Ansari says the confidence motion can only be passed if there are at least 50 percent votes in favor. Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani dismisses the objection and says the choice was made after much deliberation by the respected president and prime minister.

Minister-designate Khatami comes to the podium at 0750 GMT and thanks all members who gave their opinions of him and says that he wants to elucidate a few points in this regard. First, a minister is not "a superhuman being" or one who conforms to an ideal image.

Another deputy who is not named speaks on the former's association with the KEYHAN newspaper and his services in transforming the paper from a counterrevolutionary organ into a true mouthpiece of the revolution. A spirited discussion ensues on the pros and cons of the choice of minister-designate Khatami.

The final votes are cast at 0830 GMT and Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani announces the results: Rafiqdust has 173 votes in favor and 11 against with some abstentions, Khatami has 121 votes in favor and 27 against; Izeh'i has 126 votes in favor with 7 against.

After applause subsides, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani declares the Majlis adjourned and announces the next session for Thursday at 0800.

New Ministers Approved

LD091106 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 9 (IRNA) -- The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) this morning gave its vote of confidence to three new ministers.

The ministers were Hojjat ol-Eslam Javad Izeh'i, as the state minister in charge of the welfare organisation who obtained 126 votes in favour of him, out of the 171 votes.

Second was Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammed Khatami, the minister of ershade Eslami (Islamic guidance), with 121 votes in favour out of 169 votes, while the third minister was Mohsen Rafiqdust, the minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps with 139 votes in favour out of 173 votes.

Biographies Cited

GF091812 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, 9 Nov IRNA -- Biography of new minister of ershade Islami:

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammed Seyyed Khatami, 39, was born in Ardakan, Yazd Province, in a religious family. He was elected Ardakan deputy for Majlis in 1980, and in Nov 1979, Imam Khomeyni appointed him head of the KEYHAN group of newspapers. In 1978 upon the request of martyred Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti he went to Hamburg, West Germany to run the Islamic Centre there. Together with Muslim students associations in Europe he changed the centre into one of the Islamic campaign spots particularly during Imam Khomeyni's stay in Paris. While studying theology he continued his underground political activities.

Biography of new minister of state and head of welfare organization:

Hojjat ol-Eslam Javad Izeh'i, 34, born in Esfahan in a religious family. Imam Khomeyni's historic move in 1963 attracted him to theological studies. Simultaneously with his studies in psychology in Esfahan University he also taught in Esfahan's high-schools. He also published some publications which included "A New Glance on Islam." He went to Hamburg, West Germany to continue his studies there. He established fruitful relations with the Islamic Centre of Hamburg where he was recommended to go by martyred Dr. Beheshti. He also established connections with Islamic associations there. After one year he went to Austria and along with his activities in the studies received his PH.D. in psychology. After returning to Iran he commenced working in the Foreign Ministry. His latest position was political-social undersecretary of the minister of state in executive affairs.

Biography of Minister of IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps]:

Mohsen Rafiqdust, 42, born in Tehran started his political career with nationalisation of oil industry, in 1951. After U.S. masterminded coup in 1953 due to his political activities he was prevented from studying. Later he continued his studies in evening classes. After the imam's order concerning the formation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, he was one of the first persons to be accepted as a member of the IRGC. He was in charge of the logistic unit of the corps and is one of the members of High Council of the IRGC.

Voice of Iran Comments

GF081004 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Just as we had predicted last week based on information from reliable sources, the mullahs' Cabinet has been reshuffled and two proteges of the mullahs and a professional brigand have joined the clique of the other lackeys who form the mullahs' Cabinet.

Mohsen Rafiqdust, one of the torturers and conspirators of the regime whose hands are stained with the blood of hundreds of patriotic freedom fighters, has been introduced as the first minister of the antihuman revolution guards. With a record of terrorism, he has participated actively in numerous brutal operations of the Khomeyni guards against the freedom fighters in Tehran, Rasht and Bandar 'Abbas and his personally shot hundreds of opponents of the mullahs' administration with machineguns.

Mohsen Rafiqdust is a close friend and associate of the chief of the murderous guards, Mohsen Reza'i.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TALKS IN INDIA

LD070950 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 7 (IRNA) -- Foreign Ministry undersecretary in charge of cultural affairs said Saturday that the Indian authorities assured him of giving punishment to those who provoked and caused the clashes among the Iranian students in educational institutions of that country.

Javad Mansuri who was back from a trip to India, said the 86 Iranian students who were jailed in Bangalore south India, were innocent. He said they did nothing but to defend their basic rights and deserved no punishment. He said the Indian authorities agreed to release those who were arrested with no reason.

Iran expected India, he added, not to harm the bilateral relations just because of certain media reports in that country and biased propaganda against Iran. The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi, he added, will pursue the matter.

He said in the talks with his Indian counterparts, it was agreed that joint committees be formed at the level of foreign ministers to develop bilateral relations in political, economic and cultural fields.

He said a raise in the number of Iranian students in Indian universities was not possible due to the limited seats in Indian colleges.

On the expansion of Iran-Indian cultural relations, Mansuri said the Iranian culture houses in Bombay and New Delhi could be useful for that purpose along with the efforts of the Islamic Guidance Ministry. Also discussed with Indian officials, he added, were the upcoming Non-aligned Movement conference in New Delhi next year, better tourist relations, better facilities for [word indistinct] and other travelling to India, and an increase in the visits of the officials of the two countries.

In conclusion, he said the Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao accepted an invitation to visit Iran for which the dates will be announced in the future.

REFERENDUM ON TURKISH CONSTITUTION REPORTED

GF081958 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] With the disclosure of the outcome of the referendum on the Constitution in Turkey yesterday, Gen Kenan Evren, who is the leader of the military government in that country, will remain in power as the president of Turkey for 7 years. Evren was the only presidential candidate in this election.

The officials of the military government announced yesterday that it was forbidden not to participate in the referendum. Those who would refrain from participating were liable to imprisonment and fines. And, those who cast their votes did not have a chance of casting a no vote.

OFFICIAL RECEIVES TURKISH, BANGLADESH ENVOYS

LD091128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] The Turkish and Bangladesh ambassadors today met separately with Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi. During the meetings, the deputy foreign minister outlined the Islamic Republic's views on the Iraqi imposed war and on latest developments at the fronts. Having expressed Iran's sincere wish to maintain peaceful relations with all Islamic states, he stressed that on the basis of our Islamic belief and constitution, continuation of this policy is conditional and depends on lack of hostility by these governments toward the Islamic Republic and on the absence of support for the aggressor.

'Azizi then added: Continuation of our operations is aimed at repelling aggression, crushing the aggressor and, ultimately, realizing just conditions to end the war in the interest of the two nations and peoples. As we already have stated on a number of occasions, we want genuine peace. We have no expansionist designs. Nevertheless, we respond to force with force. If the Iraqi regime fails to take advantage of the opportunities we provide and also fails to submit to our just terms; if it continues to bomb our towns and kill our innocent compatriots, then there is no doubt that heavier blows inevitably will be dealt to Iraq.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH FRG AMBASSADOR

GF081750 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8 IRNA -- The ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Jens Petersen, today called on the Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed with him matters of bilateral interest.

KEYHAN REPORTS EXECUTION OF TWO COMMUNISTS

GF071810 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] Yasuj -- According to the Central News Unit in Yasuj, the Public Relations Department of District 9 of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps announced that two individuals, Ebrahim (Emareh), son of Khodabakhsh, and Parviz Rahimi, son of Taher, were sentenced to death by the Gachsaran Islamic revolution court for membership in the organization of the Union of Iranian Communists. The verdicts were carried out at 1400 on Sunday.

CLANDESTINE: TUDEH PARTY'S KIANURI FLEES TO GDR

GF071852 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] Nureddin Kianuri, former general secretary of the Iranian Tudeh Party, has escaped to the GDR. There have been no reports available on the details of his escape from Iran. However, rumors say that he escaped with the help and cooperation of one of the regime's influential mullahs.

Our correspondent adds: Ehsan Tabari also has been arrested in Rasht. He is a member of the Tudeh Party's Political Bureau and one of the Soviet's fifth column agents in Iran. Tabari, who holds the title of the theoretician of the Tudeh Party of Iran, which is affiliated with Moscow, is one of those people who played an active role together with Kianuri in bringing Khomeyni to power in Iran.

According to our correspondent, following the escape of Vladimir Kuzichkin, the Soviet diplomat, from Iran to London, the names of the leaders of leftist groups affiliated with the Soviet Union have been passed to Western intelligence officials who, in turn, passed these names and other information to the so-called Islamic regime.

According to the same report by our correspondent in Tehran, Khomeyni's regime is currently in possession of the names of 400 Tudeh Party activists who have infiltrated the armed forces, the Foreign Ministry, the Revolution Guards Corps, the police, the gendarmerie and some so-called revolutionary organizations of the regime. The regime gradually is arresting them. Some already have been arrested; others are still being sought. The regime's agents are trying to identify other activists of the Tudeh Party and leftist groups affiliated with Moscow in the government's administrative organizations.

NVOI URGES PURGE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TA060548 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 5 Nov 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Dismissal From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Opportunist Elements That Have Changed Color Is Vital"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In his recent Friday prayer sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our homeland's speaker of the Islamic Majlis, while analyzing a series of complex and acute issues of our society also referred to a significant point which is extremely important in reviewing the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The dear compatriots are aware that recently some of the dregs of the former regime, who have changed color and who were engaged in work and activity in various positions in our country's embassies abroad, allegedly sought refuge in Western countries. Imperialist mass media, also are striving futilely to exploit this matter to mislead public opinion and minds in Western countries.

In his Friday prayer sermon, Rafsanjani rightly pointed out that these elements and these dregs of the former regime were the very SAVAKists and elements who changed color and remained in the embassies since the former era, and who actually were plotting against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The head of the legislative branch announced that the government is determined to fully investigate these unclean elements and remnants of the former regime and persons who have changed color and to cleanse the embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad from the filth of their presence.

The emphasis of the head of the legislative branch to the effect that the government is determined to dismiss elements opposed to the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in whatever garb that they may be, from the arena of the country's foreign policy is by itself very promising if it is carried out with consistency, decisiveness and realism.

The fact is that although more than 3 years have passed since our nation's glorious revolution, a correct purge on the basis of revolutionary standards has still not been carried out in government organizations, particularly in the wide network of our homeland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At one time, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was run by the Sanjabis, the Bani-Sadrs and the treacherous Qotbzadehs, who were the foes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and who used to move the pawns in this ministry and the embassies in accordance with their own wishes and aims.

It may seem surprising but it is a fact that even up to now there are certain persons who in the past were in the service of SAVAK and the former sinister regime with all their being, but who today are still engaged in work both in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad.

During the provisional government, and after it during the ascendency of the traitor Bani-Sadr and the corrupt-on-earth Qotbzadeh, some of the foes of the revolution and the imam's line, by pretending to be Muslims and religious and by acquiring beards and beads, succeeded in entrenching themselves in this ministry. Not only abroad but within the country as well, in this self-same Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country, they transfered a large number of classified government documents abroad and placed them at the disposal of Iran's enemies.

As Rafsanjani noted, these elements who were abroad placed all the classified documents of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the disposal of the intelligence authorities of Western countries in return for receiving bribes and for the sake of serving their Western masters. However, subversive activity of these elements does not end here. In fact, they have implemented and continue to implement all the directives of the leaders of the trends opposed to the imam and the revolution's line abroad. What is of great importance in connection with a purge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the embassies of our Islamic Republic is devoting attention to those hands and the mighty and powerful network that operate in the Islamic government under the mask of pseudo-Islam and CIA-fabricated associations such as the Hojjatiyeh and so forth, and which have imposed and continue to impose unsuitable and opportunistic elements who have changed color, as well as the foes of the imam's genuine line on government organizations, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These hands and this subversive network and implementer of the line of the liberals, the counterrevolution and the United States must be identified and disgraced so that every fraudulent person and opportunist,and every foe of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will not be able to entrench himself in this sensitive ministry under the mask of pseudo-Islam.

FOUR ARRESTED FOR DRUG, ARMS SMUGGLING IN SHIRAZ

GF091852 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] A large narcotics gang with around 200 kg of opium and some arms was discovered in Shiraz. According to a report by the Central News Unit, Shiraz Islamic revolution guard personnel from the Department for Combating Drugs and Vice, with the cooperation of the hezbollahi umma', managed to confiscate 193 kg opium and 685 rolls of opium together with one M-3040 [as heard] German machinegun. These traffickers had cleverly hidden the opium in their Toyota. One set of scales, three motorcycles and one Mazda also were taken from these traffickers.

According to the report, these traffickers, (Alman) Balavar, son of Hoseyn, Mohammad Khavand, son of Parviz, Mohammad Qane'i, son of Akbar, and Akbar Shariari, son of Morad, were using various means to take arms and ammunition from Shiraz and the war zones to Sistan va Baluchestan for use by counterrevolutionary groups. They also purchased narcotics from Afghanistan and other countries and distributed them in Shiraz and other cities. The traffickers were handed over to the judicial authorities together with the captured arms, vehicles and drugs.

VILLAGES 'CLEARED' OF 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD091808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the mopping-up operations in villages in Kordestan, the brave fighters of Islam cleansed the area of the filthy counterrevolutionary imperialist lackeys. Coordinated operations also liberated 5 km of the Sar Dasht-Piran Dasht axis and cleared six more villages of traitorous and mercenary elements. Those villages are: (Nejaba), (Manzimah), Hastijan, (Deshlavan), (Zaghan) and (Melk).

KURDISH LEADER DISCUSSES CURRENT AIMS

PM081451 Paris LE MATIN in French 4 Nov 82 p 9

[Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni, spirtual leader of the Kurds, interview with Jacques de Vernisy in Paris -- date not given]

[Excerpts] "A European could not imagine what Khomeyni is now doing in Kordestan and throughout Iran," Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni, spiritual leader of the Iranian Kurds, told LE MATIN. He is in Paris "for medical examinations and to meet Iranian and foreign opponents of the Tehran regime."

Since mid-September "the Tehran regime has stepped up its attacks on Kordestan and has been imposing on us a war comparable to the bloodiest conflicts in the world," Hoseyni said. It has launched a very broad offensive in the western part of Kordestan, near the border with Iraq, and has used every means of trying to occupy some of the "liberated regions under our control."

Those attacks "did not spare civilians." Villages were bombed and shelled "by Phantom jets, helicopters and guns." For instance, in a big village near Miandow Ab (between Tabriz and Mahabad), the Tehran forces "massacred 30 people including the mullah." Even now, "the clashes are very fierce" On 20 October, two columns comprising regular soldiers and revolution guards wanted to leave Mahabad to occupy villages held by the resistance fighters (peshmergas). However, the underground fighters attacked them and they were forced to turn back. Some 100 Khomeyni supporters were killed or wounded."

Although the Tehran forces have been able to "make slight progress" in the past few weeks, the sheykh maintained: "Their advance has been halted thanks to the peshmergas' resistance, which improved greatly following the military agreement signed a few days ago between the two main forces in Kordestan: the Kordestan Democratic Party led by Abdorrahman Qasemlu and the Komeleh (Maoist) led by Abdollah Mohtadi. The two parties, which were already cooperating in many spheres, decided to place their troops under joint command in the Piranshah-Sar Dasht region, "and that has already had obvious effects on the morale of the peshmergas and the population and on the battlefields."

[Question] What is the toll of 6 weeks fighting?

"Around 3,000 members of the Tehran forces killed, wounded or taken prisoner, and among our people, 400 killed or wounded, mostly civilian villagers," Hoseyni stated.

"By its very nature the Khomeyni regime, comprising fanatical and reactionary clerics, cannot last very long," the sheykh said. The reason it has survived so long is that there has been no real alternative and the opposition is too divided. It is also because the regime is continuing the war with Iraq. The Kurdish resistance has joined the National Resistance Council, whose founders, Mas'ud Rajavi and Bani-Sadr, have taken refuge in Paris. The sheykh, who is to meet Rajavi "shortly," deplored that council's tendency to be ineffective.

The opposition, the sheykh said, ought to be able to increase its unity behind three objectives: overthrowing Khomeyni, forming a democratic Iranian republic -- whose constitution would guarantee freedom and religious belief for all Iranians -- and, finally, respect for the national rights of all Iran's peoples, including, of course, the Kurds who would be recognized and would obtain a form of autonomy.

RETURN OF BUSHEHR FRIDAY IMAM, REQUESTED

GF091544 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 8 Nov 82

[Text] Following the announcement of the opinion of His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri concerning the return of Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani, Bushehr's Friday imam, a delegation formed by Mr (Moqeysi), the Islamic revolution prosecutor, Mr Mohammadi, commander of the Revolution Guard Corps, Mr Jahanbakhsh, deputy governor general in charge of development together with the director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic -- Bushehr center, official in charge of the reconstruction crusade, acting director of the Islamic propaganda organization and representatives from the clergy and Islamic societies of Bushehr's guilds and merchants went to Qom to meet His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and also to discuss the return of Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani.

The delegation, accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam Dashti, a learned clergy from Qom theological center,met Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani in his house today according to a report by the Central News Unit. During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani's return to Bushehr was discussed. The delegation then went to the office of Imam Khomeyni in Qom and delivered a long petition signed by the people of Bushehr, asking for the return of Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani.

According to the report, the delegation will be meeting Ayatollah Montazeri at his residence this afternoon and will discuss the request of the people of Bushehr for the return of Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani.

ETTELA'AT REPORTS ARREST OF 25 'HYPOCRITES'

GF071812 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] According to a report by the Islamic revolution prosecutor's office in Torbat Heydariyeh, the continued efforts of the brothers faithful to the Islamic revolution and the efforts of the 36-million-strong intelligence network has resulted in the arrest of 25 members of the terrorist hypocrite organization in the city and the district of Khaf. They were turned over to this office.